

James C. Savery

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

Recommended Citation

"James C. Savery." *The Annals of Iowa* 7 (1905), 237-237.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3243>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

NOTABLE DEATHS.

JAMES C. SAVERY was born at Wareham, Mass., Nov. 30, 1826; he died at Cable, a mining town in Montana, Aug. 21, 1905. He was descended from one of the Pilgrim Fathers, who came over in 1620. During his early life his family resided at Saratoga, N. Y. He came to Des Moines about the year 1855, where he made his home. Des Moines continued to be his home during the whole of his long life, though business interests compelled him to reside for long periods, at various times, in New York City and the Rocky mountains. He was a man possessed of great business capacity, always active and alert in whatever engaged his attention. In the later fifties and early sixties the capital of Iowa did not possess a more energetic citizen. His business enterprises, for the most part, were successful. It is understood, however, that he won and lost more than one handsome fortune. He seemed to acquire wealth easily, but his interest in its acquisition kept him ever seeking new fields for its investment. This led to many losses. He built two first-class hotels in Des Moines, the old "Savery," now the "Kirkwood," and the new "Savery," both of which have been favorites with the people who travel. He was also a member of the American Emigrant Company, a corporation organized to facilitate the settlement of lands it had acquired in northwestern Iowa. In this he was associated with F. C. D. McKay and Talmage E. Brown. This organization undoubtedly was instrumental in bringing many persons seeking homes into that section of the State. Latterly, Mr. Savery had been engaged in developing a gold mine at the place where he died. This enterprise had become one of considerable promise, and it has been understood that he had again become a millionaire. In the old days, say of the war period and earlier, the Savery home in Des Moines was a center of attraction. His first wife, a lady of English parentage, was well educated, sparkling and bright, a leader in the society at that time. The Saverys were distinguished for their generous hospitality and wide influence. Whatever contributed to the welfare of the young city was always certain to elicit their deep interest. In accordance with Mr. Savery's wishes his remains were brought back to his old home and laid to rest with those of his wife and three brothers.

WARREN BECKWITH was born in Henrietta, Monroe county, N. Y., in 1833; he died at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, July 17, 1905. He was educated at Monroe Academy, and at the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, at Lima, N. Y. He left school at the age of 19, having adopted the profession of civil engineer. His first work was on the Genesee Valley Railroad. He followed this work in the east until 1854, when he migrated to Kansas, and at Ft. Riley helped to lay out Pawnee City, which was designed by Governor Reeder for the capital of the State. He assisted in erecting a building for the legislature, which, however, was occupied but one day. He became a friend and intimate associate of Nathaniel Lyon, who was then a Captain in the regular army, and was afterwards killed at Wilson's Creek, Mo., while heading a charge of the 1st Iowa Infantry. In 1856 he settled at Burlington, where he entered the employ of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, with which he stayed until 1859, when he engaged in business in Texas. He was there when the civil war broke out and at once came north and offered his services to the government. He enlisted as a private in Co. C, 4th Iowa Cavalry, in which he served until the close of the war. Four months later he was promoted to First Lieutenant, and on January 1, 1863, was made Captain of his Company. He served under Gen. Curtis in southwestern Missouri, and later joined Gen. Grant's army on the march to Vicksburg, where he participated in the siege of that stronghold. He was with Gen. Sherman on the Meridian expedition in 1864.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.